

CUBA: TEN YEARS OF CASTRO

With Bert Quint

Exec Producer: Perry Wolff

Producer: Irv Drasnin

Writer: Quint

30 Mins., Tues., 10:30 p.m.

CBS-TV (film)

The tendency of some producers who obtain great newscast is to try to let it speak for itself. In this special on what's happening in Cuba, Irv Drasnin not only had some exceptional footage but integrated it into a first-rate script that carefully eschewed irrational thinking that frequently obscures the facts about that troubled isle.

The film derived from two sources. CBS newsman Bert Quint and a camera crew were finally let into that country after three years of delay; despite the fact that the Cuban authorities gave Quint a hard time about leaving the island, much of what he shot was only a few weeks old when the show went on the air. In addition, the web also purchased some exciting film from French photographer Francois Floquet.

Quint dealt with the ongoing argument as to whether Cubanos are better or worse off under Castro with an even hand. Havana is apparently a wasteland, and the middle class is now the forgotten class. But out in the provinces is where the revolution is really happening, and there poverty has been sharply reduced and illiteracy virtually eliminated. There is a continuing shortage of almost everything, particularly items considered luxuries. As Quint put it: "No one starves, but no one eats well."

Quint was particularly effective in bringing the Cuban situation into a broader perspective, pointing out that it is the most thorough revolution in history and the most personal one—the revolution is Fidel Castro. It may succeed, it may fail or it may just amble along, but it is not just going to go away.

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Television★Review

CUBA: TEN YEARS OF CASTRO

CBS-TV, Nov. 19, 10-10:30 p.m.

This brief documentary on Cuba and the Cubans ten years after the establishment of the first Marxist state in the Western Hemisphere, another episode in CBS's "Who, What, When, Where, Why" series, was an incisive and well-balanced statement on the island nation's political, economic and social life.

Narrated by CBS's Latin American correspondent, Bert Quint, "Cuba" featured, in addition to the network's films, footage shot by French photographer Francois Floquet. The combined shots gave a first-hand glimpse of Castro and his continual movements throughout the country, the political camps which are said to seek to reestablish loyalty to the regime rather than execute its enemies and the civilian militia that includes women.

The highlight of the show was the analysis of the tremendous endeavors being made by farmers to increase self-sufficiency since the U.S. trade boycott. It is here that "the revolution has won its greatest acceptance and its greatest successes," it was said, for Castro realized that with the failure of his industrialization program his social experiment would be doomed if there were not a return to the soil. He has been aided by Soviet investment averaging \$1,000,000 per day and by extensive austerity measures favor the children—Cuba's most privileged group—and penalize the adult populace, who for example are allowed only three quarts of milk a month. It appears to correspondent Quint that the revolution will be upheld for the foreseeable future because of hero worship of Castro and Che Guevara and the social benefits conferred under the communist regime, although at the expense of liberty.

Of necessity, "Cuba" was a tightly-knit affair considering the short half-hour allotted. The only real weakness involved the portion devoted to the economic scene. It would have been desirable to have a brief explanation of why the industrial effort did not succeed and to have taken a closer look at the sugar industry and its problems, since the destiny of Cuba largely rests on that crop alone. Irv Drasnin produced with Perry Wolff serving as executive producer.

—Don Musco.

TV What's On? RADIO

'Cuba: 10 Years of Castro' Offers Rare Films of Island

By KAY GARDELLA

The island of Cuba, once a gay and popular playground for American tourists, including the late Ernest Hemingway, is, today, 10 years after the revolution, a somber, anti-American police state.

Cubans may still smile and drink daiquiris at the La Florida, but the life and vitality of the island has been sapped up by the somber regimentation that has become synonymous with communism.

This was the picture painted in

CBS-TV's half-hour special, "Cuba: 10 Years of Castro," produced by Irv Drasin and featuring correspondents Bert Quint and Charles Kuralt. It was a rare but sterile glimpse of a country changed by social revolution.

He's Forceful

The film footage, taken by CBS News, was supplemented by footage supplied by French photographer Francois Floquet. It showed the successes and failures under Castro, who is called El Caballo — the horse — by his people, because of his energy and forceful personality. Seen, too, is the constant preparation being made for an eventual military encounter with the United States, the anti-American propaganda being drummed into the young school children, and the treatment afforded those who have dared to defy the revolutionist leader.

Not all of last night's report was intact. The sound portion of a segment involving prisoners who refuse to be rehabilitated, imprisoned in the ancient fortress, La Cabana, overlooking Havana harbor, was confiscated.

Correspondent Bert Quint, too, was detained one week before being able to leave the island, he said yesterday. He finally got out last Friday, with no ex-

Unforgettable TVer:

There are documentaries which we call formula documentaries like the one above on Cuba. And then there are the kind that wreak havoc with the senses and stir a man to the very depths of his conscience and soul. Such an hour was Channel 13's "The World of Piri Thomas" last night — aired from 8 to 9 p.m.

This first-hand subjective look at life in the garbage-ridden streets of Spanish Harlem, through the eyes of this drug addict-turned author, captured in raw, vivid and often cruel terms, what humans suffer trying to survive in this rat-infested world. One could feel the misery, smell the filth and vomit from frustration as the hour realistically introduced us to the true anguish in the narrow, dark, sunless streets. This was an unforgettable report from the guts and heart of a man who cares.

Daily Back:

John Daly's new occupation is that of host on Channel 13's Critique series, which premiered last night. The former What's My Line? moderator effectively channeled a discussion on the Association of Production Artists



Dick Cavett

Charles Kuralt

presentation of Moliere's "The Misanthrope," into areas of interest and provocative thought. Scenes of the tragi-comedy preceded and followed the critical analyses offered by drama critics Walter Kerr, Emily Genauer and John Simon.

Still Negotiating:

The future of Dick Cavett is still up in the air at ABC. Cavett's manager, Jack Rollins, said offers were made at meetings held with the brass yesterday, "but they're so complicated it will take Dick to the end of the week to decide." Meantime, Cavett denied a report that NBC "officially" approached him as an in-the-wings replacement for Johnny Carson on the Tonight Show, if Johnny's current wave of restlessness culminates in an exit from the network. But he admitted that a late-night show would be exactly what he'd like to do.

A Confrontation:

Another interesting TV rating battle looms Sunday with the Jets vs. the Giants for the first time in New York since 1965. The Jets game against the San Diego Chargers, played at 1 p.m. on the West Coast, will be seen here on NBC-TV at 4 p.m., at the same time that CBS will televise the Giants-Los Angeles Rams grid clash, also from the West Coast. The Giants were the victors in the rating battle the last time; we'll see if the Jets gain ground Sunday.

First time
on television

COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Roy Rogers & Dale Evans, hosts
Glen Campbell
Roy Acuff
Pat Boone
Jimmy Dean
Chet Atkins
Roger Miller

Johnny Cash
Tex Ritter
Bobby Goldsboro
Jeannie C. Riley
Tammy Wynette

This is the show originally scheduled for October 30 which was pre-empted for a political broadcast.

See the entire
awards presentation on

KRAFT
MUSIC HALL

TONIGHT

9 P.M. CHANNEL 4